AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a clip comprising the steps of:

forming the precursor of a clip from a material comprising a superelastic alloy which has an austenitic state and a martensitic state, said precursor having an ~~generally~~ annular body which is ~~generally~~ planar and having one or more tines which extend radially outwardly from said body;

inverting said precursor such that said tines extend radially inwardly; heating said precursor in its inverted configuration to cause said alloy to become ~~substantially~~ austenitic; and quenching said heated precursor to form a clip which is ~~substantially~~ austenitic.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said alloy is nickel-titanium.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said body comprises a plurality of looped elements.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, after inversion, at least two tines are in side-by-side relationship.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, after inversion, at least two tines are in over-and-under relationship.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one tine is longer than a radially opposed tine.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said forming step comprises cutting said precursor from a sheet of material comprising a superelastic alloy.

8. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a clip comprising the steps of:

forming the precursor of a clip from a material comprising a superelastic alloy which has an austenitic state and a martensitic state, said precursor having an ~~generally~~ annular body which is ~~generally~~ planar and having one or more tines which extend radially inwardly from said body;

said precursor having a radial ~~lateral~~ dimension which is ~~substantially~~ larger than that of the clip;

compressing said precursor in a radially inward direction to bring said tines ~~substantially~~ closer together;

heating said precursor in its compressed configuration to cause said alloy to become ~~substantially~~ austenitic; and

quenching said heated precursor to form a clip which is ~~substantially~~ austenitic.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said alloy is nickel titanium.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said body comprises a plurality of looped elements.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the nickel titanium has a grain orientation and at least two tines have a longitudinal dimension transverse to the grain orientation.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein, after compression, at least two tines are in side-by-side relationship.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, after compressing said precursor ~~compression~~, at least two tines are in over-and-under relationship.

14. (Original) A clip manufactured according to the method of claim 1.

15. (Original) A clip manufactured according to the method of claim 6.

16. (Original) A clip manufactured according to the method of claim 8.